

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF

## WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 16, 1915, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912.

VOL. 38, NO. 49

## Business Leader Urges Industrialists To Work For New Social Legislation

New York.—Eric Johnston, former U. S. Chamber of Commerce president, and head of the Motion Picture Association of America, urged American business leaders to cooperate in the passage of social legislation.

Addressing members of the N. Y. State Chamber of Commerce, he told

process, to secure a top advisory position in the financial and fiscal affairs of our government, which, in the final analysis, will be tremendously important in the year to come."

Mr. Johnston urged the nation's business leaders to turn their production abilities into a "new" method

He told his audience the nation's economic future is at stake and that the country's political system is in "grave danger." He said the nation's political system is in "grave danger" and that the country's economic future is at stake.

### George L. Berry Dies at 66; Headed Pressmen's Union;

Pressmen's Home, Tenn.—George L. Berry, president of the AFL's International Printing Pressmen's Union, died here. He was 66 years old. The AFL leader, who served briefly as U. S. Senator and held high administrative posts in the federal government, died after a 4-day illness. His death was reportedly caused by a digestive disorder.

Mr. Berry had been the active head of his union most of the time since he was first elected president in 1907.

But his activities outside the union were as impressive as those within.

He joined a national police force in the U. S. Customs Administration in the early days of the New Deal. Orphaned at 6 when his father, a deputy United States marshal, was killed from ambush, Mr. Berry started his career in the printing trade with the Jackson Daily News, at 18. At 21 he started out to practice the trade elsewhere.

His journey took him to St. Louis, Nebraska City, Denver and San Francisco and finally to the gold fields of Nevada.

Following his election as union president, Mr. Berry established this community, only a few miles from where he was born, as union headquarters.

He set a home for incapacitated or indigent premen here and a trade school. Later he established an enterprise of his own—the International Playing Card and Label Co.

Mr. Berry served from 1927 and 1936 by appointment to fill a vacancy, but was defeated when he sought to retain the office.

## AFL Leader Calls on Virginia Governor To Lift Labor Bans, Bow to People's Will

Richmond, Va.—J. & Smith, president of the Virginia Federation of Labor, urged Governor Tucker to "respond to the mandate of the people" and to "take the initiative" in order to be placed around the neck of the laboring people.

His plea was prompted by Governor Tucker's comments recently regarding labor's right to picket and to strike, and Virginia's labor laws. Smith wrote the governor:

"I am sure that you do not consider any of these (Virginia) laws anti-labor. I am sure that you do not consider any of these laws designed to oppress the laboring people. I am sure that the laboring people were placed with the state's statutes and had approval with to have their cause come before the provisions of the state's labor act."

"With reference to No. 1... certain laws which deprive an individual or a group of individuals of their rights of free expression of opinion, of the right of assembly, of the right of petition, of the right of association, of the right of interstate commerce, of the rights of the citizens of the United States, is not a just law, is not a reasonable law, is not a law."

"With reference to statement No. 2... challenge your right to labor for people whom you have referred to as being placed with the state statutes. I am sure that the laboring people of the Commonwealth of Virginia is drawing upon the state's statutes for the protection of their rights of free expression of public life, why not get on the band wagon, respond to the mandate of the people of the United States?"

## Proper Apprenticeship Training Plan Held Aid in Reducing Building Time

The construction industry is helping to reduce the time required for home building, William F. Patterson, U. S. director, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, said here.

Speaking at the recent national convention of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, Patterson stated:

"The construction time period has steadily been declining since the mid-1920s. This is true because an apprentice is a worker whose productivity increases as he acquires new skills. In the process of learning, he is saving materials also, of course, and is instrumental in reducing the building time period."

At the end of the war 16,000 building trade apprentices were employed while today more than 130,000 are being trained in these crafts, Patterson said.

He stressed the need for maximum

Thousands of new journeymen who learned their trade through apprenticeship are making their contribution, but apprentices also are

Thousands of new journeymen, who would be trained by the apprenticeship system, are making their contribution, but apprentices also are

**AFL CAFETERIA WORKERS WIN NEW PAY INCREASE**

New York.—Local 302 of the AFL's Cafeteria Employees Union announced the renewal of its agreement with

**UNION PLEDGES \$20,000 TO COMMUNITY CHEST**

Philadelphia.—A \$20,000 pledge from members of Highway Truck Drivers and Helpers Union Local 1000 to the American Community Chest (ACC) for the 1949 Community Chest

The agreement provided an across-the-board raise of \$2 a week, or 10 percent, for all employees.

The signing of the new contract marked the completion of an 8-year period of harmonious labor relations between the union and the company.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service has been named as a national representative of workers in the field of labor relations, including industrial, commercial, and public relations, and contains other information of interest to the labor union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

## WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, President

WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1948

GEORGE WEAVER, Secretary-Treasurer

**FIGHT BIT**  
Buy  
Christmas Seals

### Green Urges Severe of Soviet Trade; Pledges Vigorous Fight for Democracy

New York—President William Green pledged the continued support of the AFL for the new State of Israel in its efforts to build a "strong and thriving democracy."

Addressing the Workers' Committee, Green declared that the AFL will broaden its activities in its campaign against Communism and will continue to do so in the future.

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### AFL Political Committee Wins Election Contest

Scranton, Pa.—The AFL Central Labor Union here won the \$1,000 first prize in the "Out-Of-Office" Contest sponsored by the Labor's Political Committee for Truman and Brien.

First prize, secretary-treasurer of the committee, presented the award to Charles J. Murphy, CIO president, at a meeting here of local union officers and labor political leaders.

Mr. Murphy announced that the committee had won the \$1,000 first prize in the contest.

### High Prices, Profits Threaten Economic Stability, AFL Says

#### Value of New Housing Drops Sharply; November Figures Below Those For 1947

Washington—While the demand for new housing continues to grow, the value of new housing has dropped sharply, according to figures released by the Federal Housing Administration.

The F.H.A. announced today that the value of new housing in November was down 10 percent from the same month in 1947.

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### Cruikshank Asks Move To Curb Inflation, Lower Prices

Washington.—The American Federation of Labor placed the blame for the inflation which threatens the nation's economy upon the excessively high profits earned by American industrialists.

Speaking for AFL President William Green, T. B. Cruikshank, the AFL's director of social insurance activities, told the members of the AFL's National Conference that high prices, which have fattened corporations, have resulted in a decline of mass purchasing power which is a threat to the stability of our democracy.

### Have You a Definition For 'Free Enterprise'?

San Francisco.—A nationwide letter is on the definition of "free enterprise," with the result of a survey of the opinions of labor leaders and business executives.

The survey was conducted by the AFL's National Conference on "Free Enterprise," which was held in San Francisco last week.

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### Extension of Child Labor Legislation, Stronger Enforcement Urged by Group

New York.—The National Child Labor Council, a group of labor and business leaders, has urged the extension of child labor legislation and stronger enforcement of existing laws.

The council's report, which was released today, states that child labor is still a problem in many parts of the country.

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### AFL Union Honors 'Boss' For Good Labor Relations

Chicago.—An union-sponsored birthday party for a "boss" of the AFL's International Chemical Workers Union ended with a surprise presentation of a "boss" award to the union's president.

The award was presented to the union's president, who was praised for his good labor relations with the company.

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### ILGWU Report on Educational Affairs Stresses Value of Training Programs

New York.—The value of educational programs for union members and their families was stressed in a report released by the International Ladies' Guild of America (ILGWU).

The report, which was released today, states that educational programs are essential for the improvement of the lives of union members and their families.

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### AFL Issues Charter to 106th Union; Fight Engineers Association Formed

Washington.—AFL President William Green today issued a charter to the 106th union, the Fight Engineers Association, which was formed in the city of Washington.

The charter was issued to the association, which was formed by a group of fight engineers who were dissatisfied with the conditions of their work.

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### Doctors Rebellion Against AMA Seen By Head of Liberal Physicians Group

Washington.—A "grass roots" revolt against the American Medical Association (AMA) is being organized by a group of liberal physicians, according to the head of the group.

The group, which is called the "Liberal Physicians Group," is made up of doctors who are dissatisfied with the AMA's policies.

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### COOPERATIVES SET RECORD FOR MEMBERS

Washington.—At all times high in popularity and business was the cooperative movement in the United States, according to a report released by the National Cooperative Business Association.

The report, which was released today, states that the cooperative movement has grown steadily in popularity and business over the past few years.

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### COLLEGE ATTENDANCE AT NEW PEAK LEVEL

Washington.—Enrollment of students in the nation's 1,708 colleges and universities set a new record this fall, a report released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The report, which was released today, states that the enrollment of students in colleges and universities has reached a new peak level.

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### APL PAINTERS RISE \$50,000 FOR HOLIDAY

New York.—The American Painters and Union of Laborers (APL) has announced a \$50,000 increase in wages for its members for the holiday season.

The increase was announced by the union's president, who stated that it was a result of the union's strong bargaining position.

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### NEW INCOME TAX GUIDE PREPARED BY GOVERNMENT

Washington.—The government has prepared a new income tax guide for the year 1949, which will be available to the public in the near future.

The guide, which was prepared by the Internal Revenue Service, will provide taxpayers with information on the new tax laws and how to file their returns.

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